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Attorney Docket :
033082M113

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hiroaki SAEKI et al.

Serial No.: 10/019,227

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Filed: December 28, 2001

Examiner: To Be Assigned

For : ATTACHING AND REMOVING UNIT OF LID FOR WAFER CARRIER

LETTER TO EXAMINER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In order to maintain the official file for this application complete, Applicants enclose a copy of a Supplementary partial Search Report issued on March 19, 2004 to the European application corresponding to the present U.S. application.

This supplementary paper is not cited by way of an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) hereby because no reference has been cited in the supplementary paper over those cited in the International Search Report cited by Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of December 28, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: April 21, 2004



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Eing.: 23. März 2004

Frist: 13.04.04
add. search fee
nd. eds

Datum/Date

19. 03. 2004

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. FB10937	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n° // Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n° 00942356.7-1235/JP0004233
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire TOKYO ELECTRON LIMITED	

COMMUNICATION

supplementary

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,--) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.
This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.
See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

- The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.
- Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.



SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
	No further relevant documents disclosed -----		H01L21/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H01L
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p>			
<p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>			
1	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
EPO FORM 1503.03.82 (P04C23)	THE HAGUE	5 March 2004	Oberle, T
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			



European Patent
Office

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 00 94 2356

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-4

Lid-detecting unit

2. Claims: 5-18

Attaching and removing unit